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**FINAL REPORT  
TO  
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
FOR  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
HORSE CREEK CATTLE EXCLUSION  
FENCE PROJECT**

**4-48-0001-95671 95-HR-121<sup>01</sup>**

**March 2001**

## **Horse Creek Cattle Exclusion Fencing Project**

**14-48-0001-95671 95-HR-12**

The following report is submitted to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service concerning the Horse Creek Cattle Exclusion Fencing Project 14-48-0001-95671, 95-HR-12 implemented by the Oak Knoll Ranger District on behalf of the Klamath National Forest.

### **Horse Creek Cattle Exclusion Fencing Project**

#### **Abstract:**

Under this project, approximately 5000 feet of riparian corridor along Horse Creek will be fenced. This will not only protect the riparian corridor but also the valuable spawning bed areas along this stretch of stream.

#### **Introduction:**

One of the local ranchers along the lower end of Horse Creek pens up his cattle along the riparian area of Horse Creek during the summer and winter months. This is done so that his pasture can be used to grow and bale hay in the summer months and in the winter, he pulls the animals off when the pasture is too wet to hold them. This method of ranching has led to widespread degradation of the stream and its banks due to cattle encroachment.

#### **Description of Project Area:**

The location of this project starts approximately 500 feet above the confluence of Horse Creek and the Klamath River and extends approximately 1 mile upstream. The legal description for the location is T46N, R10W, Section 16, (MDB&M).

#### **Methods:**

Before considering submitting a proposal to the Fish and Wildlife Service to help fund this project the Oak Knoll District Fisheries Program Manager contacted the private landowner involved to gain permission to construct the fence. In addition, the maintenance agreement on the fence was discussed and agreed to. Once these two tasks were completed, the proposal was submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for review and eventual funding.

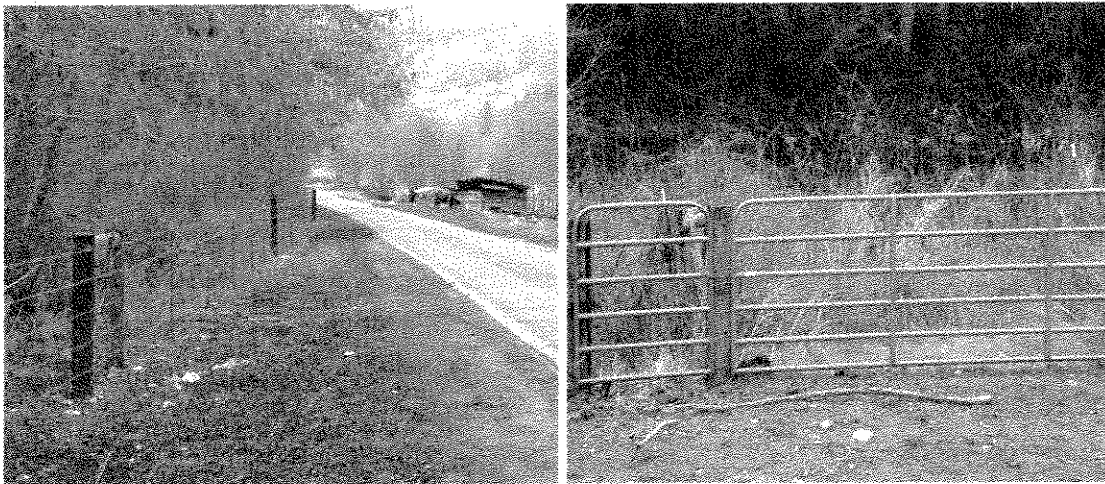
A plan was developed for the construction of the fence and a field review of the project was conducted with the owners, California Department of Fish and Game, and the U.S. Forest Service. At this time, it was concluded by the Fish and Game that no permits were necessary for this project.

The fence was constructed using five strands of standard barbwire strung between heavy gauge 6' metal "T" posts. 6X8 railroad ties were used for corner and inline bracing.

There were three animal stream crossing sites. One was also used as a vehicle crossing to gain access to the property on the other side of the stream. Each crossing contained a 14' gate and one 4' gate on each side to allow any trapped animals behind the fence to be set free.

The Oak Knoll District Office was closed in September of 1997. Sometime during the packing and moving of district files to their new location the project folder for this project was misplaced. All photo documentation and pre- and post- permanent cross sections and longitudinal profile data is missing. Without documentation, it is impossible to substantiate whether tasks 4, 5, 7, 8, and 9 were completed.

Shown below are two current pictures of the project. The left picture shows a section of fence directly across from the feedlot and the right picture shows a stream crossing with gates. Both pictures capture how well the vegetation has grown back in the excluded areas.



### **Summary and Conclusions:**

The construction of the fence was completed in the spring of 1996. In January of 1997, a major storm event passed through the area resulting in massive flooding. During this time the fence was severely damaged, and in some areas it was completely destroyed.

The California Department of Fish and Game sent a crew in to rebuild the fence. The cost to Fish and Game was \$4074.88.